

TAWNEY REPLIES TO LITTLEFIELD.

Attacks the Maine Representative
for Opposing the Puerto
Rican Bill.

HIS REMARKS PASS UNHEEDED.

Debate on the Measure Continues
in the House, With Numerous
Arguments For and
Against It.

Washington, Feb. 24.—Throughout the debate on the Puerto Rico bill in the House of Representatives today there was an absence of speculation on the outcome of the efforts to bring about mutual action on the part of the forty members of the House. Previous conferences were held between representatives of the various elements in hope of arriving at a common ground of understanding for consideration at the formal conference held tonight.

The debate brought out a speech by Representative Tawney of Minnesota, urging Mr. Lynde of Maine for his speech of yesterday, and also two speeches from the Republicans and one by Mr. Conkling of New York and Mr. Powers of Vermont opposing the bill. Mr. Thayer of Massachusetts closed the day with a defense of the anti-imperialists.

The other speakers were Mr. Elkins of Missouri, for the bill, and Messrs. Clayton of Alabama and Broadhead of Louisiana against it.

Mr. Clayton was the first speaker, presenting a legal argument against the bill. He maintained that the United States military forces held Puerto Rico the time of the census, and that the island became a nation in 1898.

Mr. Powers of Vermont attacked the bill.

We have always held territory belonging to the United States and for almost half a century have held and governed the Territories of Alaska, New Mexico and Arizona. "The territorial status of a man's home does not constitute imperialism; imperialism is the forcible dominion over people who are not willing subjects, who are subjected to the rule of a despot. It is this that strikes terror to the mind of so many of us, and that makes us oppose imperialism. Imperialism in the sense of despotic rule can never have a place in our Republic except by the destruction of the Republic itself and the extinction of the American race."

Speeches in Opposition.

"With such imperialism repudiated is repudiated the war. The conditions that necessarily precede imperialism will not and never will be tolerated in our American life. But I will tell the gentlemen that if you will let me say this, the people are doing and will ever continue to do what we can and will make no imperial domain."

Mr. Powers of Minnesota said that all the ominous predictions made against the bill would be relegated to the Democratic wing of history for all time, that the war was not a success, and that the people he would support the bill by the behavior it is to be the best measure attainable in establishing a local government.

Mr. Tawney of New York announced that he was not in accord with the majority of his Republican associates on the bill, but that he did not believe that justice and fairness which characterize the policy of the Republican party. He believed in his party in the doctrine of protection, and in the right of the government to protect citizens, or to determine among the States or Territories. He insisted also that even if Congress did not act in Puerto Rico would make such an act a flagrant violation and a violation of our promise to the Puerto Rican people.

Following the speech of Mr. Powers of Minnesota, for the bill, and Messrs. Clayton of Alabama and Broadhead of Louisiana against it.

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